

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	CRIMINAL NO.	_____
v.	:	DATE FILED:	_____
MARVIN ENOCH POTTER, JR.	:	VIOLATIONS:	18 U.S.C. § 498 (Altering military or naval discharge certificate 1- count); 18 U.S.C. § 704 (Unauthorized wearing of military medals and decorations 1- count).

**INFORMATION**

**COUNT ONE**

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

1. Between in or about November 1969 and in or about October 1975, Defendant MARVIN ENOCH POTTER, Jr., served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, attaining the noncommissioned officer rank of sergeant. His official Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was designated as Jet Engine Mechanic.

2. Between in or about July 1972, and in or about February 1973, Defendant MARVIN ENOCH POTTER, Jr., was deployed overseas to the Republic of Vietnam aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. America (CVA-66) and was assigned as the Material Control Unit Supervisor while attached to Marine Fighter Squadron 333.

3. Defendant MARVIN ENOCH POTTER, Jr.'s performance of his supply and management duties during this time resulted in his being awarded the Navy Achievement Medal.

Neither the recommendation which prompted the award nor the citation accompanying the medal made any mention that the award was for anything other than his performance of supply and management duties.

4. In or about August 1988, Defendant MARVIN ENOCH POTTER, Jr., wrote to the Marine Corps requesting a list of authorized awards for his service in the Marine Corps. He was advised by letter dated March 1989 that his authorized awards are: (1) the Navy Achievement Medal; (2) Meritorious Unit Commendation; (3) Good Conduct Medal; (4) National Defense Service Medal; (5) Vietnam Service Medal; (6) Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation; (7) Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; and (8) Rifle Expert Badge. Defendant POTTER made a second request for a list of his authorized awards for his service in the Marine Corps along with a request for a copy of his DD-214 discharge certificate. Again, he was advised by letter that his only authorized awards are those set forth in this paragraph. A copy of his DD-214 discharge certificate was provided along with an honorable discharge certificate.

5. Defendant MARVIN ENOCH POTTER, Jr., later altered his DD-214 discharge certificate from the Marine Corps to include the following awards he had not earned: the Navy Cross Medal (the second highest military award for valor), the Silver Star Medal (the third highest military award for valor), the Bronze Star Medal (the fourth highest military award for valor), the Purple Heart Medal, Airborne Wings, and SCUBA badge. He also took several photographs of himself wearing his uniform with unauthorized medals, badges, and decorations attached.

6. The heroic actions during combat operations which Defendant MARVIN ENOCH POTTER, Jr., claimed resulted in his being awarded the Navy Cross, were actually performed

by Marine Private First Class Raymond M. Clausen, who was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Richard Nixon.

7. On or about July 15, 2003, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the defendant

**MARVIN ENOCH POTTER, JR.**

unlawfully possessed and exhibited a certificate of discharge knowing such certificate of discharge to be falsely altered, that is, by adding to the certificate of discharge unauthorized awards of the Navy Cross Medal, the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, Airborne Wings, and SCUBA badge.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 498.

**COUNT TWO**

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

1. Paragraphs 1 through 6 of Count One are incorporated here.
2. On or about March 11, 2003, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the defendant

**MARVIN ENOCH POTTER, JR.**

knowingly wore without official authorization medals and badges authorized by Congress for the armed forces of the United States, and service medals and badges awarded to members of the armed forces, that is, the Navy Cross Medal, the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, Airborne Wings, and SCUBA badge.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 704.

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PATRICK L. MEEHAN  
*United States Attorney*